



## 1193 MINERS ARE KILLED IN FRENCH COAL MINE

### EXPLOSION CAUSED BY FIREDAMP-- FIRE MAKES RESCUE IMPOSSIBLE

Big Coal Workings in Department of Pas De Calais  
Scene of Fearful Catastrophe--Grief Stricken  
Relatives Surround Mouth of Pit.

#### FLAMES MAKE RESCUE WORK VERY DIFFICULT

EXPLOSION OCCURS SHORTLY AFTER THE MEN HAD DESCENDED TO  
WORK--EXPLOSION AFTER EXPLOSION FOLLOWS SPREAD-  
ING FROM ONE CHAMBER TO ANOTHER--ALL OF  
FRANCE IS IN DEEPEST MOURNING.

PARIS, March 11.—A dispatch from Lens, time 1:30 this morning, states the number of entombed men is 1219, and the crowd around pits numbers 25,000.

PARIS, March 10.—A mine disaster of incalculable horror and magnitude has stricken the great coal center of Northern France. An explosion of firedamp this morning carried death and destruction through the network of coal mines centered at Courrières and fire followed the explosion making the work of rescue difficult. The intense excitement and confusion in the vicinity prevents exact estimates of the loss of life. A dispatch received here at 4:35 this afternoon stated that of 1955 miners who descended into the pits, 1494 were probably lost. At 8:45 this evening a brief dispatch announced the total death toll 1193.

#### Explosion in Morning.

The scene of the catastrophe is a mountainous region near Lens, in the department of Pas De Calais. Here are huddled the small hamlets of the mine workers. The subterranean chambers form a series of tunnels. Six outlets are near Lens and others are at Courrières, Verdun and other points. The output of these mines is particularly combustible and largely used in the manufacture of gas and smelting.

The explosion occurred shortly after the men had descended for work this morning. A deafening explosion was followed by the cages and mining apparatus being hurled from the mouth of the Courrières mine. The men and horses near the entrance to the mine were either stunned or killed. Immediately following the explosion the flames burst from the Pas De Calais pit driving back those who tried to enter and dooming those within. The work of attempting rescue was hastily begun, officials, engineers and miners from the surrounding mines forming parties and making heroic efforts to penetrate the smoke and foul gases to bring out the imprisoned men. Families of the entombed miners crowded about the shaft

seeking fathers or husbands and threatening in their efforts to obtain details, to force back the gendarmes, who kept them from the mouth of the pit. The populace is appalled by the disaster which affects every household.

#### Clue to Origin.

Tonight a dispatch was received from Lille, which seemed to give a clue to the origin of the explosion. It was stated a smoldering fire broke out in the Coal pit of the Courrières mines at a depth of 270 metres. M. Barault, the chief engineer, descended for the purpose of investigating. This is all that is known about the origin of the terrible catastrophe. Some imprisoned miners sought to escape to the pits which remained intact and several rescues were made. The first cages came up at 10 o'clock with about a dozen half suffocated men. Towards noon the cages brought up several wounded men and two bodies. The main work of rescue is progressing in pit four. Gas is pouring into pit two, and it is impossible to sue out the men imprisoned there. The explosion damaged the cages in pit three so they are not working. Ten miners from pit eleven have been removed, but none of the 858 who entered pit eight have been brought up. Of the 500 men who descended in pit four this morning, 388 have been brought up but the rescue of the others is impossible. In pit 3 only thirteen out of 443 have been rescued.

Foreman Lecompte came up from the mine this afternoon and reported a terrifying scene below. The crowds surrounding the mouth of the mine are showing signs of impatience at what it considers the slow progress of the rescue.

At 8 o'clock tonight several engineers, two of whom were unconscious, were brought out.

After continuing the efforts at rescue

throughout the afternoon, tonight brought a conviction that the entombed men are suffocated and when it was ascertained that the galleries had fallen in, attempts at rescue were given up.

The crowds still surround pit four, and the scenes are heartrending.

The chief engineer of the department of Pas De Calais stated that the fire broke out Monday and Friday, all the outlets were closed. He thinks that fissures must have formed which permitted the gases to escape, and these becoming ignited caused the explosion. One of the engineers told the Journal's correspondent that the cage was unable to descend more than 150 metres while the gallery where the miners were entombed is fifty metres farther down. The rescuers, who descended in this cage report having heard the imprisoned men tapping on the water pipes but the hopes thus kindled were soon extinguished by the engineer who stated it would require eight days to dislodge the debris from the shaft. The latest news received is that the rescuers are still at work but making slow progress. Up to the present, 150 bodies are recovered from pits 11 and 12, all having been asphyxiated.

### FIGHT OVER PHOTO

Friends Resent Attempt to Photograph John R. Walsh.

#### PHOTOGRAPHER IS ASSULTED

Comrades Take His Part and Melee Follows on Chicago Courthouse Steps  
Noses Bloodied and Eyes Are Blackened—Riot Call.

CHICAGO, March 10.—The preliminary hearing of John R. Walsh, former president of the Chicago National Bank who was arrested several days ago on a charge of violation of the Federal banking laws, was set for this morning before United States Commissioner Foote, but because of the absence of Mr. Walsh's attorney was continued until March 19.

A lively fight between the friends of Mr. Walsh and a number of newspaper photographers took place when Mr. Walsh was about to leave the Federal building after his case had been continued. The photographers had placed their machines at the Adams street entrance to the building, and when Mr. Walsh came out one of them snapped him. In an instant the friends of Mr. Walsh made a rush for him and the machine went into the air and the photographer to the sidewalk.

He jumped up and struck one of his assailants in the mouth, knocking him down and cutting his hands badly on the teeth of the victim. A general mix-up followed, all the photographers taking sides with their fellow worker against the friends of the banker, and for two or three minutes a crowd of men numbering at least a score fought up and down the steps of the building and back and forth across the sidewalk. Hats were smashed, noses bloodied and eyes blackened.

#### JUDGES TESTIFY.

Say Cox Tried to Influence Decision of the Bench.

CINCINNATI, March 10.—Two judges of the circuit court, testifying today before the Dake Investigating Committee of the State Senate, and stated that George R. Cox, formerly Republican leader in Hamilton county, tried to influence that court in a suit involving a \$200,000 bond, while a third judge testified that Cox simply asked for a fair and impartial hearing. The testimony came at the close of a day devoted to testimony regarding the purchase of turnpikes. The judges had been subpoenaed as witnesses, the general understanding being that they appeared with a personal interest in one or another of the turnpikes.

#### WOUNDED IMPROVING.

MANILA, March 10.—All the wounded men in the fight near Jolo are progressing favorably. Jolo is quiet. The sultan and the native headmen express satisfaction at the extermination of the outlaws. General Wood has received a cable from President Roosevelt congratulating Wood and the officers and men for their brilliant feat of arms in which the honor of the American flag was so well upheld.

#### CHAMBERMAID DROWNED.

PITTSBURG, March 10.—The towboat Thomas Lisle sunk this evening striking a rock in the Monongahela river. Christine Dempsey, a chambermaid, said to be a sister of Jack Dempsey, the pugilist, was drowned.

### DISQUITETINGRUMOR

Report Circulated Operators Refused Miners Demands.

#### NO CONFIRMATION OBTAINED

President Mitchell Hastily Summons the Mine Workers Sub-Committee Together Last Night and Rumor Ensues.

NEW YORK, March 10.—President Mitchell of the Mine Workers instead of leaving for Indianapolis tonight as was expected, instead, hastily called together the members of the miners' sub-committee having in charge the negotiations with the anthracite operators. Mitchell, when those of the committee now in the city had assembled postponed the meeting until tomorrow. There is unusual activity around the miners' headquarters tonight, the hastily called meeting and Mitchell's proposed departure for the West, combined to give rise to the rumor that the miners had received the reply of the operators to their demands. It is also rumored that this reply is unfavorable, although no confirmation of this point was obtained tonight.

#### BLIZZARD RAGING.

MISSOURI, March 10.—The worst blizzard in many years is blowing tonight. A heavy snowfall occurred today accompanied by a forty-mile gale. Traffic is interfered with on the Northern Pacific in many places.

#### PRICE WILL NOT ADVANCE.

NEW YORK, March 10.—According to the newly created publicity bureau of anthracite operators, hard coal will not be advanced, in this city at least, even in case a strike occurs.

## CONCILIATORY SPIRIT MARKS THE CONFERENCE

Algeciras Conference Assumes More Favorable Aspect and Delegates are Extremely Hopeful of Satisfactory Adjustment of Situation.

#### SPEECHES OF DELEGATES ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC

GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT A SETTLEMENT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME--GERMANY HAS MODIFIED HER DEMANDS AND FRANCE IS CONSIDERING THEM--QUESTION OF POLICE AND BANKS ARGUED.

ALGECIRAS, March 10.—The spirit of conciliation was most marked at today's session of the conference and produced the general impression that a settlement is only a matter of time. Germany has materially modified the conditions on which she conceded the Franco-Spanish police force, but France still hesitates to accept these conditions. Indications are that an acceptable middle ground will be found. Today's debate covered both the questions of police and banks. Concerning the bank Germany is willing to concede France three shares, while France claimed four.

This difference promises to be readily adjusted however. Concerning the police, the French, German and Austrian delegates made speeches. Von Radowitz stated he accepted the Austrian provision and Count Welsersheimb, the Austrian, explained his project as offering a fair middle ground.

The speeches produced a favorable impression, the delegates saying a great step has been made.

M. Revault argued against dividing the administration according to the Austrian plan, but his remarks indicated he expected a speedy adjustment of the question.

#### WILL FORM MINISTRY.

PARIS, March 18.—Jean Marie Ferdinand Sarrien definitely decided today to form the ministry. Previously Sarrien conferred with M. Bourgeois and Poincaré, the former agreeing to take the portfolio of foreign affairs and the latter that of justice. Sarrien will assume the ministry of the interior.

#### JUBILANT ARIZONIANS.

PHOENIX, March 10.—Phoenix tonight is holding a jubilee celebration over the passage of the amendments to the statehood bill in the Senate yesterday. A large procession is parading the streets, and bonfires are burning and powder exploding. The whole atmosphere is one of enthusiastic demonstration.

#### SNOW FALLING.

CHEYENNE, March 10.—In Wyoming, Western Nebraska and Northern Colorado snow has been falling for the past twenty-four hours. The storm is accompanied by a heavy wind. The weather is growing colder and stockmen fear losses.

#### STEAMER ON FIRE.

VICTORIA, March 10.—A Nanaimo dispatch says a big fire is visible in the Gulf of Georgia about fifteen miles off shore, which is believed to be a steamer burning. The steamer Alert has left to investigate.

#### BOY BURGLARS.

Are Caught Trying to Steal Automobile From Garage.

CHICAGO, March 10.—Three boys who were about to start for the West in a stolen automobile were arrested in a storage garage last night on information furnished by a woman who had seen them enter through a window several times. Two detectives went to the place and concealed themselves. They saw the boys enter and compelled them to surrender. They had selected a large touring car and provisioned it for a long journey, even putting in an extra set of tires. They planned to start last night, and had they gotten away the machine would not have been missed until spring.

#### RACE WAR IN PROGRESS.

MOBILE, March 11.—Sheriff Powers has received a telegram stating a race war is in progress at Quilmer, a small lumber town a few miles west of Mobile and several whites and blacks are killed. A message was received at 1 o'clock and asked immediate assistance. A special train is being made up to carry a force of deputies to the scene.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 10.—Three sessions of the International School Conference were held yesterday. Mrs. J. W. Barnes of New Jersey, international secretary of the Elementary Grade, read a very interesting subject.

## REPORTS OF ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING DECLARED FALSE

NEW YORK, March 10.—Sir Chen Tung Li Cheng, the Chinese minister, today received from the legation at Washington dispatches from the Peking government confirming last night's press dispatches to the effect that absolute

quiet prevails in the Chinese Empire. It is asserted that any feeling of unrest, which may hitherto have existed, has entirely disappeared; that China is not on the verge of a revolution and there is not the slightest danger of an anti-foreign outbreak.

## CASH REBATES PAID BY THE BIG FOUR RAILROAD

CINCINNATI, March 10.—That the Big Four railroad paid a cash rebate on a shipment of steel from Pittsburgh to Kansas City and otherwise favored shippers was testified by General Freight Agent Ingalls, before the interstate commerce commission today. T. C. Conner, general agent in this city testified that after being promised immunity a large number of shippers were permitted to ship over the road on their own statement of the weight shipped.